

ANCIENT HOUSE, BRUGES.



and necessarily close approximation too violent for good taste. The accompanying view represents the garden front.

The stabling and offices, which are of very considerable extent, do not appear in this view; neither does the library, a fine large room in continuation of the front, for which there is not room in the engraving.

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BRUGES, the City of Brics, is eminent for the picturesque variety of its street architecture. The crow-stepped gables of the Austrian and Spanish periods are everywhere contrasted with the fantastic forms of the Renaissance and subsequent styles. There is considerable difficulty in ascertaining the precise date of these buildings, but the approximate period to which they belong may be determined at a glance. One of the earliest is that on the "Grande Place," called the Prison of Maximilian, wherein, A.D. 1486, that emperor was confined by his turbulent subjects. The incessant troubles, both foreign and domestic, which afflicted Flanders throughout the sixteenth century could have left but little leisure for the practice of the fine arts, but the commencement of the seventeenth century brought the enlightened government of Albert and Isabella, which, together with a twelve years' truce, was productive of the most beneficial results to the Low Countries. To this period, contemporary with that of our James the First, are attributable the majority of these interesting buildings. The accompanying illustration represents a house on the "Rue Plamands," and may be taken as a type of its class, although it presents some peculiarities: these are, first, perforated tracery heads in two of the upper windows, which are very uncommon, the window opening generally finishing square, and the semicircular head being filled in with blank tracery, as in the other two upper windows. The other peculiarity is the form of the gable, which is usually crow-stepped, but here presents a compound curve crocketed.

These interesting houses lose much of their effect from the monotony imparted to them by the universal application of whitewash, in the use of which the Flemings of the present day emulate the most zealous English churchwardens of olden times.—J. G. H.

MASTERS AND MEN.

AT Stourbridge, on Wednesday week, a chain manufacturer charged a workman, with whom he had contracted for twenty-four months, with deserting his service. On the part of the workman (Homer) it was objected to the written agreement—Firstly, That it was bad for want of mutuality. Secondly, That the magistrates had no jurisdiction, because the work agreed to be done by Homer was by way of contract; and there was no relation of master and servant between his master and himself. Thirdly, That the agreement was null and void under the 1 & 2 Wm. 4, c. 45, s. 2, in consequence of the weekly deduction for a stipulated sum, for blast, &c. Counsel (Best, M.P.) was consulted, and on his opinion the magistrates acted in deciding to commit Homer for one month to hard labour, with the option, however, of returning to his work, which latter Homer preferred. Three other men employed on verbal agreement, with fourteen days' notice mutually, were ordered to return to work, failing which, to suffer each one month's imprisonment with hard labour. The men complained that their wages were reduced without any notice. They were strongly advised by the magistrates to return to work and give their masters the fourteen days' notice, and assured that if refused the wages agreed on without notice, the magistrates would protect them by making orders on their masters to pay the full amount. This appeared to satisfy the men, who also consented to return to work.—A great anti-truck meeting was held at Tipton on Monday in last week, when 5,000 to 6,000 nailers, chain-makers, miners, manufacturers, tradesmen, and others attended in the Castle Meadows notwithstanding uninterrupted rain, and resolutions for the effectual suppression of the Tommy-shop system and the amendment of the Truck Act, were unani-

ALAPHA, THE RESIDENCE OF PRINCE WORONZOW.

THIS palace is erected on the south of the Crimea, facing the Black Sea. The property on which it is built was purchased by the Prince of the Tartar proprietors, in small lots, this being the general principle on which the greater part of the property in this part was held previously to the Russian nobility establishing themselves as residents there. The character of the country is peculiarly beautiful, and the climate delightful: it is sheltered at the back by lofty precipices rising to the height of 2,000 feet, and open to the south to the sea breezes. The space between these precipices and the sea averages about six miles, and is broken into the most irregular and picturesque forms, combining, along with vast masses of rock, the most luxuriant vegetation, and the greatest fertility.

The designs were made during the Prince's residence in London in the year 1836, by Mr. Edward Blore, architect, and the works were commenced in the following year, a clerk of the works having been sent out to superintend workmen, to act as foreman, and instruct the native workmen; and materials of various kinds were also sent out, particularly cast-iron for ornamental purposes, lead pipe, locks, hinges, and all such other matters as the country either did not supply or made of a very inferior quality.

The arrangement of the plan was necessarily very much regulated by the unequal nature of the ground, and the masses of rock interposed between its several parts. The front is, consequently, very much elongated, and presents no continuous face or line. The material used is granite, the only building material to be got in abundance in the neighbourhood, with small portions of freestone for the more delicate ornaments, where great labour was required.

The building occupied about three years in its erection, and it is a curious fact connected with it, that its first occupant was the present Emperor of Russia, who resided in it a short time during his stay in the Crimea, on his progress through the southern provinces of his vast empire.

It ought to be stated, that, in consequence of Prince Woronzow's family connexions with England, and his having resided for a considerable portion of his early life in this country, he was desirous that one of the fronts of his palace should be designed in the style of the ancient domestic architecture of this country, whilst the opposite front should, in compliment to its local connexion, be rendered more Asiatic. In accordance with this wish, the entrance front was, therefore, designed in the former, and the garden front in the latter style, with such an admixture of the two styles as was necessary not to render their combination